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[22750/525] EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 GROUP ART UNIT 1771

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants

Rudolf GAERTNER et al.

Serial No.

10/074,404

Filed

February 12, 2002

For

Tufted Backing and Method of Manufacturing Same

Examiner

Cheryl Ann Juska

Art Unit

1771

Confirmation No.

7026

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Date:

November 24

Signature:

Richard M. Rosati (Reg. No. 31,792)

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

SIR:

In response to the Final Office Action dated September 22, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.